AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently amended)   A method for reducing the quantity of *Desulfovibrio* and/or *Helicobacter spp.* in the GI tract of a companion pet which comprises orally administering to the said pet a *Desulfovibrio* and/or *Helicobacter spp.* reducing quantity of a fiber selected from the group consisting of an oligosaccharide, a galactan, a beta glucan and a mixture thereof, wherein said oligosaccharide is a galactooligosaccharide.

2.   (Original)   The method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the companion pet is in need of said administration.

3.   (Original)   The method in accordance with Claim 2 wherein the companion pet is a dog or cat.

4.   (Currently amended)   The method in accordance with Claim 3 wherein the dog or cat has a disease wherein GI tract inflammation is a main component.

5.   (Currently amended)   The method in accordance with Claim 4 wherein the fiber is selected from the group consisting of arabinogalactan, xylooligosaccharide, galactooligosaccharide, fructooligosaccharide, inulin, sprouted barley and a mixture thereof.

6.   (Original)   The method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein a polyphenol is also present.

7.   (Currently amended)   A method for treating GI tract inflammation in a companion pet having an elevated level of *Desulfovibrio* and/or *Helicobacter spp.* in the GI tract comprising orally administering a *Desulfovibrio* and/or *Helicobacter spp.* reducing effective amount of a fiber selected from the group consisting of an oligosaccharide, a galactan, a beta glucan and a mixture thereof, wherein said oligosaccharide is a galactooligosaccharide.

8.   (Original)   The method in accordance with claim 7 wherein a polyphenol is also present.

9.   (Currently amended)   A method for treating GI tract inflammation in a companion pet having an elevated level of *Desulfovibrio* and/or *Helicobacter spp.* in the GI tract comprising orally administering a *Desulfovibrio* reducing effective amount of a component which reduces the quantity of *Desulfovibrio* and/or *Helicobacter spp.* in the

GI tract wherein said component is selected from the group consisting of an oligosaccharide, a galactan, a beta glucan and a mixture thereof, and wherein said oligosaccharide is a galactooligosaccharide.

10. (Currently amended) A method for reducing an odor selected from the group consisting of intestinal gas odor, stool odor and any mixture thereof in a companion pet having an elevated level of *Desulfovibrio* and/or *Helicobacter spp.* which comprises orally administering a *Desulfovibrio* and/or *Helicobacter spp.* reducing effective amount of a component which reduces the quantity of *Desulfovibrio* and/or *Helicobacter spp.* in the GI tract, wherein said component is selected from the group consisting of an oligosaccharide, a galactan, a beta glucan and a mixture thereof, and wherein said oligosaccharide is a galactooligosaccharide.

11. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein said component is said galactan, said beta glucan or a mixture thereof.

12. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said fiber is selected from the group consisting of said galactan, said beta glucan and a mixture thereof.

13. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein said fiber is said galactan.

14. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein said fiber is said beta glucan.

15. (New) A method for reducing the quantity of *Desulfovibrio* and/or *Helicobacter spp.* in the GI tract of a companion pet which consists essentially of the step of orally administering to said pet a *Desulfovibrio* and/or *Helicobacter spp.* reducing quantity of a fiber selected from the group consisting of an oligosaccharide, a galactan, a beta glucan and a mixture thereof.

16. (New) A method for reducing the quantity of *Desulfovibrio* and/or *Helicobacter spp.* in the GI tract of a companion pet which consists of the step of orally administering to said pet a *Desulfovibrio* and/or *Helicobacter spp.* reducing quantity of a fiber selected from the group consisting of an oligosaccharide, a galactan, a beta glucan and a mixture thereof.